

CHILD CARE LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cannon Health Building, Room 125

9:00 a.m., November 2, 1998

Members Present: Chris Bray; Joyce Hastings; Paula McGibbon; Dianna Farr; Erin Bitterolf; Sarah Croskell; Marilyn Macumber; Ursula Trueman; Tracy Halverson

Staff: Deb Wynkoop-Green; Doug Springmeyer; Joel Hoffman; Bonnie Winter; Wendee Pippy; Penny Knudson; Colleen Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Bray welcomed all in attendance.

2. August 2, 1998 Minutes

Ms. Croskell moved to accept the minutes of the August 2, 1998 meeting with the change of item number five from Stockholders to Stakeholders. Ms. McGibbon seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

3. Licensure Actions/Sanctions

Mr. Hoffman stated that there were no new sanctions issued to childcare facilities. Bonnie's Daycare has met the food safety requirements of the local health department and the Department will issue a standard license.

Mr. Hoffman reported that on September 21, 1998, a Cease and Desist order was given to a provider who had started operating a childcare center prior to a license being issued. The provider completed all licensing standards and within a couple of days, a license was issued.

Mr. Hoffman stated that another licensing issue is that a Plans of Correction (POC) may not be completed within the time frames which has resulted in the Bureau issuing a Directed POC. Discussion followed.

4. Child Care Task Force

Ms. Wynkoop-Green stated that the Child Care Task Force is reviewing proposed bills and resolutions which will be presented in the 1999 legislature session. The following bills are being discussed: (1) Criminal FBI background clearances required for all new providers; (2) Tax credit for private and public business who donate space, items to child care providers; (3) Governor to appoint a child care commission of private and public partnerships

to create more child care providers; (4) Early childhood literacy program. This bill has a fiscal note of \$500,00 to provide training to childcare providers on how to teach reading.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green reported that there has been a lot of discussion regarding using monies to establish incentives for child care providers to promote longevity in the field and provide for career tracks.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green went over the proposed "Star System" Licensing incentive program. Discussion followed.

5. Child Care Legislation

Ms. Wynkoop-Green asked the committee if there were any bills they would like the Bureau to follow and keep them updated on.

Ms. Croskell stated that the IPS have asked pediatricians to volunteer to come up to the capitol for at least one half day this session. Keeping them up-to-date might be tricky, but there would be more representation this year from their profession. Ms. Croskell will report next meeting what they would like followed.

Ms. McGibbon reported on NAP/NAP. She stated that NAP/NAP and IPS sometimes coordinate legislative activities together. She will report at the next meeting what they would like followed.

Ms. Farr reported that her association has discussed concerns regarding the effects of Senator Blackham's House Bill 26 and DWS Subsidized child care program. There appears to be an increase in children leaving licensed care. They would support a bill to change these effects. She gave an example of a center who had to close because employees had quit to provide family home care and took some of the enrolled children with them. Discussion followed.

The Utah Department of Health will have a proposed bill to codify the Childcare Licensing Act. The CCLAC requested the bill address the child ratios for RC Providers.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green stated she will provide a copy of that bill once there is a sponsor and it has been filed. There will not be a fiscal note on this bill.

6. Rule Comments

Mr. Springmeyer reviewed the hearing comments with the committee. Ms. Croskell asked if a separate list could be made for the CCLAC. Mr. Springmeyer responded that it would be possible and fairly easy to do.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green went over a letter regarding biting. Ms. Macumber passed out an article regarding "Biting" and suggested making it a part of the in-service training for discipline.

Mr. Springmeyer recommended that parents require the facility to disclose what they consider appropriate behavior with regard to biting and to select their facility with this in mind. Ms. Wynkoop-Green stated the bureau will have the handout sent with the next newsletter and add it to the training. This issue will be studied further and talked about again in future meetings.

7. Report on Dr. Aronson visit

Ms. Croskell reported on Dr. Aronson's visit. Dr. Aronson is a pediatrician who has been working on childcare issues for approximately 20 years. She has been the lead person, nationally, for childcare issues-as far as pediatrics goes. Half of her job is to run Early Child Educational Linkage System (ECELS), it is an umbrella program which links all the systems for childcare in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green passed out a handout from the meeting with Dr. Aronson.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green reported on the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) meeting and summarized the discussion. Ms. McGibbon and Dr. Aronson had discussed suggestions for changes. Dr. Aronson reviewed how "Stepping Stones" and the "Care of Our Children" national standards had been developed. She stated these documents are being revised. Discussion followed regarding Utah's licensing rules and the need to add each justification and survey techniques for rules into a booklet for child care providers and licensors.

The UDOH has completed a health and safety training curriculum which is ten hours of module training, (this is the recommended initial training module). A second refresher course is suggested to be two hours in length.

8. Report on N.A.R.A.

N.A.R.A. stands for the **N**ational **A**ssociation for **R**egulatory **A**dministration. Mr. Hoffman, Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Knudson reported on the NARA conference in Florida. Mr. Hoffman stated that the conference had a lot of different sessions/classes and covered a lot of different licensing and childcare areas.

Mr. Hoffman discussed the session on Enforcement Actions. His main purpose for attending that session was to see how Utah "fit in" across the country and see if we were in the same "ballpark" with sanctions and enforcement. He found that Utah is not far from the norm. One sanction is "Forfeiture Assessments" which allows money penalties assessed to a childcare provider to be used towards correcting an item in that facility.

Ms. Colleen Fitzgerald reported on: "How to Maintain and Keep Consistency Among Licensors" which suggested that each licensor have a technical assistance manual which states the rule, the interpretation and intent of the rule. When there is change, providers

become afraid, the manual serves to “squench the fear” and give understanding to the provider of what to expect.

Ms. Penny Knudson reported on: “Communication Strategy Among Licensors” presented by Dr. Judith Colbert. Dr. Colbert gave an overview and handouts on how to communicate effectively and focused on writing skills which strengthen our enforcement abilities when a deficiency is written. Licensors must be able to reflect accurately what is found during a visit and the document must be able to stand up in hearing or a court. One important exercise she discussed was on making the document with factual vs. non-factual statements. Also, while writing the statements, remembering how a licensor would defend the statement if he/she were under oath.

9. Other Items

Ms. Hastings motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McGibbon seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 4, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. in conference room 125 of the Cannon Health Building. Please call Bonnie Winter at 538-9084 and let her know if you are unable to attend.

Ms. Halverson queried, “How do we get people to recognize the profession as ‘childcare’ vs. ‘day care’.” Ms. Wynkoop-Green stated that changing terminology will take a long time since providers of child care do not share the same belief that childcare is a professional business. If all family care providers thought themselves to be professional businesses and thought of themselves as a “professional”, change would occur more rapidly. However, until all family care providers are on the “same page,” then it is not going to get all the consumers and all of us on the “same page.”

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Chris Bray, Chairperson

Debra Wynkoop-Green, Executive Secretary